

injecting from a surface reservoir a fluid comprising a first and a second reactant;

letting said fluid contact said clayey formation;

allowing intercalation of said first and second reactant into clay galleries of said clayey geological formation; and

stabilizing said formation by using a reaction between said first and said second reactant, wherein said reaction comprises an *in situ* polymerization taking place in the presence of clay, within said clay galleries.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 were pending in this application prior to this amendment. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 were rejected in the Office Action. Claim 6 was objected to. Applicants have canceled claims 7 and 8 and amended claim 1. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6, 9 and 10 is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hudson et al. (3796263).

The claimed feature of claim 7, which was not rejected as anticipated by Hudson, has been incorporated into claim 1 so that this claim, as well as claims 2, 5 and 8-10, which depend on claim 1, comply with 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

2. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meyer et al. (4307980).